

By Messrs. Ronayne of Canton and Mooney of Canton, petition of Maurice E. Ronayne, Jr., and John J. Mooney relative to appointment of a chief medical examiner and a deputy medical examiner. Social Welfare.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER AND A DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 38 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph, as most re-  
3 cently amended by section 1 of chapter 278 of the acts of 1966,  
4 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 The governor, with the advice and consent of the council,  
6 shall appoint for terms of seven years able and discreet men,  
7 learned in the science of medicine a chief medical examiner, and  
8 as medical examiners in and for their respective counties, and  
9 as associate medical examiners in and for their respective dis-  
10 tricts in counties divided into districts, otherwise in and for  
11 their respective counties in number as follows:

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 38 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 further amended by inserting after section 1 the following sec-  
3 tions: —

4 *Section 1A.* The chief medical examiner may appoint a  
5 deputy chief medical examiner who shall serve in the absence  
6 of the chief medical examiner.

7 *Section 1B.* The chief medical examiner shall be provided  
8 with adequate office space, clerical assistance and travel ex-  
9 penses as he may need to carry out the duties of his office.

10 He shall be available to any medical examiner or associate  
11 medical examiner to answer questions concerning their duties.  
12 He shall be responsible for ascertaining the validity of all

13 grievances or complaints brought against the medical ex-  
14 aminers or associate medical examiners.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 38 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 further amended by striking out section 5, as most recently  
3 amended by section 1 of chapter 670 of the acts of 1967, and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 5.* The commonwealth shall pay to the chief medical  
6 examiner the salary of fifteen thousand dollars and to the deputy  
7 chief medical examiner the salary of eight thousand dollars.

8 In Suffolk county each medical examiner shall receive from  
9 the county a salary of eleven thousand dollars, and each asso-  
10 ciate medical examiner a salary of thirty-five hundred dollars;  
11 but if either associate serves in any year more than two months,  
12 he shall for such additional service be paid at the same rate,  
13 and the amount so paid shall be deducted from the salary of the  
14 medical examiner at whose request he so serves. The medical  
15 examiners for said county shall be provided with rooms suitably  
16 furnished for the performance of their duties, the rent, mainte-  
17 nance, furnishing and office equipment of which shall be paid  
18 for by said county upon approval of the mayor of the city of  
19 Boston. Each of said medical examiners may, in the name of  
20 said county, contract such bills for clerical service, postage,  
21 stationery, printing, telephone, traveling, and for such other in-  
22 cidental expenses as may in his opinion be necessary for the  
23 proper performance of his duty, to an amount not exceeding  
24 twenty thousand dollars in any one year; and each associate  
25 may so contract bills for the said purposes to an amount not  
26 exceeding two thousand dollars in any one year; and all such  
27 bills shall be paid by said county, upon a certificate by the con-  
28 tracting examiner that they were necessarily incurred in the per-  
29 formance of his duty, and upon the approval of the auditor of  
30 the city of Boston, as provided in section nineteen, and of the  
31 mayor of said city. Medical examiners and associate medical  
32 examiners in other counties shall receive fees as follows: For a  
33 view without an autopsy, twenty-five dollars; for a view with  
34 an autopsy, fifty dollars; and for travel, ten cents a mile for  
35 each mile traveled in the investigation of a death; for attendance  
36 as a witness at inquests or as a witness in criminal cases in dis-  
37 trict courts and in the superior court, fifty dollars for each day  
38 of such attendance; and for travel, ten cents a mile to and from  
39 the place where such inquest or court trial is held.